

9/30/05



249457



To: Jim Vanderkloot, Verneta Simon, Anita Boseman, Karen Bandhauer, Tom Bloom,  
Stuart Hill, Sally Jansen, Clayton Koher  
From: E<sup>2</sup> Inc.  
Re: **Calumet Container Site**  
CC: Frances DuPey, Lake County Commissioner; Gerry Scheub, Lake County  
Commissioner; Mark Kalwinski, District Councilman, City of Hammond; Ron Novak,  
Director, Department of Environmental Management, City of Hammond; Mike Boos,  
Executive Director Association for the Wolf Lake Initiative (AWLI)

**Introduction:**

In early September 2005, the US EPA asked E<sup>2</sup> Inc., an environmental consulting firm specializing in land use issues, to interview key local officials in the City of Hammond and Lake County, Indiana about future site use considerations at the Calumet Container site. On September 13, representatives from E<sup>2</sup> Inc. interviewed the following local government officials and stakeholders in three separate meetings:

Frances DuPey, *Lake County Commissioner*  
Gerry Scheub, *Lake County Commissioner*  
Mark Kalwinski, *District Councilman, City of Hammond*  
Ron Novak, *Director, Department of Environmental Management, City of Hammond*  
Mike Boos, *Executive Director, Association for the Wolf Lake Initiative (AWLI)*

The interviewees were in unanimous agreement regarding the community's future goals for the Calumet Container site. The key findings of these interviews are summarized below:

**Key Findings:**

1. Local government officials and key stakeholders are in consensus on future land use at the site. Both the City of Hammond and Lake County would like to restore the site's wetlands and use the site for a park or open space. Local stakeholders would like to integrate the site with adjacent proposed park areas to create a larger green space system and trail network. City and County officials are no longer interested in a truck route through the site.
2. While the City has heard that the results of ground water testing have shown contamination below levels of concern, they are still anticipating written assurances from EPA about ground water contamination.

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3. Lake County is moving forward to acquire the two privately owned parcels located within the site. Both Commissioner Frances DuPey and Commissioner Gerry Scheub indicated that the acquisition could be completed in a matter of weeks. A letter from Mr. Holmes, one of the parcel owners, stating his interest in transferring ownership to Lake County has been forwarded to the Commissioners.
4. City and County officials are willing to play a role in the site's long-term maintenance and stewardship. However, questions remain regarding the responsibilities, cost, and liabilities related to long-term maintenance that will need to be resolved prior to a formal commitment. AWLI may also be willing to play a role in the site's stewardship.
5. City and County officials would welcome technical and planning assistance from EPA in order to consider how the site's removal action and wetland restoration will best be integrated with local planning efforts.